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DAANGURAE ESSAN

ON

Paped March 182

DESTRUCTIONS OF STREET

BY

Geo: Spackman

PHILADELPHIA.

1828.

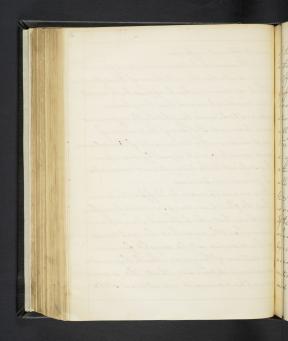
My drothorax is a disease more especially found arrong the aged and intemperate; Though some times it attacks those of middle age, and from it. It is by far the most formis -dable of the dropsies, and when once it takes a firm hold of an individual, is greatly to be dreaded; Though Jan far from considering it a disease of general fatality. occurs in the old and intemperate, proves fatalin a large majority of cases; yet un dermore favour a ble circum stances, it



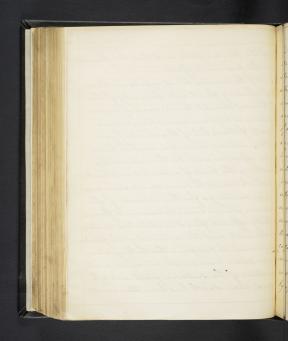
other form of dropsy. here has been much diversity of opinion with respect to the Pathology of dropsies; which still remain to be Settled. Some have taught that it depends on a destruction of that exact balance which exists between the exhalants and absorbents in a he althy state of the system; giving rise to un exceps in the enhalations, or a defect in the powers of absorption. At one time this was admitted by the majority of me die al men, but this hypothesis hasbeen questioned of late. Others have attributed it to debility of the exhalants, Jone, again, account for it on mechanical principles and there are not wanting those who ascribe it to a morbide andition of the hoart and



great blood vefsels. It would be time misspent forme to undertable the solution of the difficulty. That doctrine which appears best to suit my medical creed has long been advocated and taughtly the ingenious and learned Professor of the practice of me dicine in the University of Finsylvania, and much credit is justly due upon This subject to the talants and researches of american Genius. Otis maintained by Profesor Chapman that the fluid in droppy is widely different from that which the exchalants bour out in health, and that the real cause of the disease is to be sought for in a condition of things on which this mortide secretion depends; That the proces om ate course is an altered state



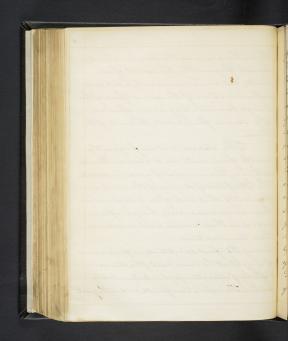
of the blood refsels, and that the effection is the proximate effect. If the executed blood velsels, instead of Ausing fluid into the canty of the Thorax, should be relieved by perspire eatien or expious wination, a cure will follow; but if they should have their action inverted, we then have an effusion into the theracio caritary acting the part of a morbid initant, which must be considered as in enor leci, causing a further increase of effec--sion, general initation and fever. If the effersed fluid constituted dropsy why will not the removal of it be followed by a cure? To far from this taking place, a sudden removal produces proste nation of the system, great districts. and even death has been the result.



state of the blood vefsels, usually afrois ated with acute, though more gener ally sub acute inflamma word, which existed anteredently to the effusion; and that this in flammation is of a peculiar kind: for the serous and cellular tifones may pass through an inflammatory state without producing offusion; the pericardium may be filled with extravasated coaque ble lymph. and also the cellular membrane secrete pus. From this it may be seen that the dropsical effusion depends on a certain degree of intensity of the in flammation; for high inflammatory action mostly results in an effusion of Coagulable lymph or in the secretion of pus.



Hydrothorans, may therefore, be defined, a disease Gequently the result of an acute, but more commonly a subacute inflammation of the serous tissue of the lungs; terminating in an effusion of a serous fluid into the carity of the Thorase. The disease not unfrequently results from acute and chronic Rewritis asthma, Preumonia of aged persons & The Stimptoms of dropsy of the chest are hequently slow, and often insidicus in their commencement; though after rapid in their course and sudden in their termination. among the Grist symptoms, we find a sense of weight-at the lover part of the sternum, Difficulty of respirationsparticularly on bodily exertion. The inspiration quick, and with great



effort the expiration slower without effort. There is aften an inability of lying in the recum bent position with the head low; also much distress of breathering on ascending heights, as hiels, and flights of Main's Oedema of the antiles, sanctimes also of the Scrotum of males, and the labia pudendi of women Cough generally attends; which is at first day, and in The course of some time becoming moist and all en ded with expectoration Jewer and considerable thirst; also a toppid state of the bowels, with more or less gastric disturbance. The Moisie is often scanty, pale, sed, and sometimes coagulable by heat. To these may be added, redema of the feet, and a pale ble ated countenance. Docams of equally haunt the Slumbers of the palient; and he often Starts suddenly



from his sleep, parting and greatly oppressed in his bretathing; and the patient is often alarmed by wholent pulpitations of the heart. Sometimes a numbrefs of one or both arms altends this diseases. feeling to the finger, not easily described but readily recognised by the emperienced Shysician. The tengue does not generally wary much from its healthy State. Mithe application of the Stethosope, we have the respiratory mus new Gercussion amilsa dull Sound; and Repure on the abdomen is said to produce great difficulty in responations These symptoms gradually advance, the hysproca becomes exceptive and the patient cannot lie for any length of time in the com bent postere, and is after compelled



to sleep in the exect porture; he is spequently roused from his sleep by frightful dreams, which greatly agitate his nervous system, and increase his difficulty of breathing; so that the unhappy victim of this disease is compelled to sleep with his shoulders slevated in his bed, and his windows open to give him air. added to these there are convulsive spasms of the nurseles destimed for respiration, producing symptoms not un like spasmodie authora; the heart is thrown into violent action by coughing or any sudden welstion. The face now been es pale, and the lower jaw appears undered at the angles and added to These, cold entremities and a weak and andently intermittent pulse, There is ofen pain which endends from the region of the heart to the insertion of the deltoid



muscle of one or both arms. The counter nance becomes still palor, and the lips have a livid hues particular las during a paroxy sow of dysprocus at the same time we find he surface of The latter part of this famidable ness, coma, and delinium If the Exculation be much interrupted, the expection tion frequently becomes bloody. and death may take place wither sudd enly, or the patient dies of general droposy or a slow wassting of Strength. Sometimes he expires during the violence of a paronysm of dysphoca, yet many have died during exertion sas congluing, and bodily exertions in all en dance on public duties; and it is not uncommon.



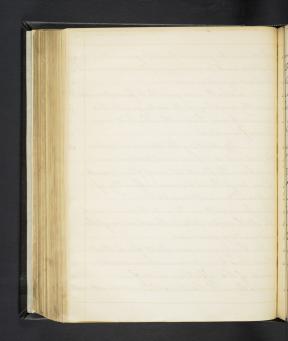
previous to the patients death. The Causes predisposing to Hydrothorase are the same that produce other in flammat my diseases; as initation, congestion, and inflammation, The remote agents are cold, intemperance, in du lgence in the pleasures of tables conjoined with an indolent state of the body and mind. age That beyond the middle period of life; for at this time there appears to be a tendency to a plethoric condition or Julness of the venous system, producing local congestion, which often result in inflammation, terminating in droposical effusions. To these may be added an obstructed state of the persperation. The remote Course may have



had its origin in an acute placeitis badly treated, or from disease of the great blood vefsels; enlargement and organic disease of the heart, liver, and Homach, misplace of Gout, and repelled meumonia of old people Diagnosis. There are many diseases with which hy drollorase may be confounded, as Empyona, Angina Sectoris, asthma, enlargement of the heart, and diseases of the great blood vefsels Bc. These may generally be distinguished from hydrothorax by the General history of the diseases but a clear diagnosis is always diffully Me must Study the case care fully and examine the patient minutely, and from



continued visceral obstructions. Hopes may be entertained of a favoura. Ale termination; if we have been called early, and before the disease has become fired; also if the patient he of a habit able to bear free depletion. Gost Mortene, examina tions or hilst various states of disease, in the carity of the thoraw; and pulmenary system. The lungs and Fleura Show marks of previous inflammation thy datids are often yound, also a dhesions between the two pleara; some times. tendinous bands are seen tying down the lungs. The heart is some times found diseased in its structure, and much increased in its volume. The great blood vefre es are aften fund much diseased, and,



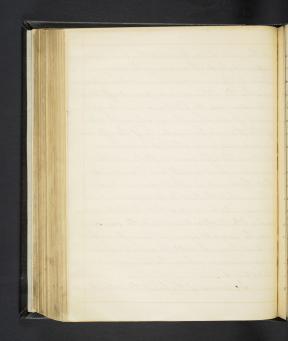
at the same time, From asthma, or mere dysproce; hydrother are may be distinguis thed by its more permanent character, and by the attending droposeal affections or tendencies, We also have an enlarge --ment of one, though ravely both sides of the thorare; particularly if the effusion be copious, and should anasare a follow, the effusion will be on the correspondent side, It has been said that Mydrocele, is afot to occur in hydro-Therax, but this not to be depended on. It may also be stated that the Stelhoscope, is hable to objections, and the same may be unged against Percupionisfor a dull sound will be essetted in empyema, or where the lungs are hepatized. In diseases of the heart the patient



can you wally be with his head low; and there is not apt to be pancity of wine; It will be best in all cases admitting of doubt to resort to all the meant in our pepishion without confiding to any one particular set of symptoms, and with these aids, matter a street examination into the case.

Tregnisis, it is un favourable when recurring in persons advanced in life, and in the intemperate, and indolerat: Also if there be much organic disease of long standing and produced in a slow and inside

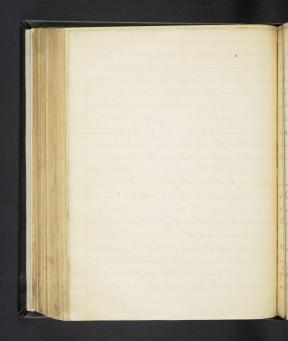
We may expect a recovery where the system has not been destroyed by offee; and intemperate ting, or greatly delilated by Ald age, and long



towards the mediastinum and sometimes the efficied fluid is found in the medi-The pericardium is often filled with serum, constituting the hydrops pericarsome times it is cition, Compied, or tinged with blood: It may be transparent, or fill'd with floculi, albuminous, and mixed with coaquilable lymph, or even pus, The lungs are void of air, and the pleured if it has enchaled blood, instead of serum, will be Yound studded, with red points. The pleur a, is often found much thickened, and the abdominal viscera also much diseased.



proxtracted visceral obstruction little But if this disease occurs ing from twelve to eighteen owness aslong as the pulse remains strong,



superation opposed pairs in the side, and the blood when drawn buffy or supped: for as long as these inflammator by symptoms continue, we are not to withheld the only source of relief and means of permanent cure. If the patient cannot bear a

repetition of the lancet; and the above symptoms continue; we must then went to topical depletion by leaches.

cups and scarifications.

Cupping is by far the best mode of employing local depletion in this from of directory, and it will aid much with cure of this disease.

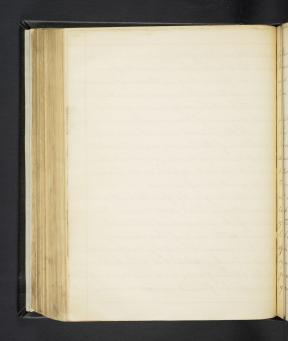
Drawing blood by capping is particularly, a dapted to Hydrothorace of the atomic forms and down capping will also be Journed serviceable here.



Ofter the inflammalory symptems have been some what restuced by general and lopic at clipbeliens, Blisters may then be employed.

Blisters have long held, and justly too, the comfidence of many

hydrotherase. They may be applied directly over the front of the chest, or between the Shoulders. Joine prefer There to be Kept discharging, soas to act as a drain, and at the sumestime of the Thorax, Others advise Them to be allowed to heal, and again uplied; and thus repeated as the symptoms demand. There is one great advantage in this last mode of employing blisters; it gives us



an opportunity introduce dry and wet cupsoing in this way we may atternate our local applications. Thave found this plan well mited to the atmic form of the disease, and to those cases for bidding general blood letting.

has been also recommended I alude to the each mal application of the Jartiate of untimony and I stash in the form of an ointment This is a very affectual made of producing cutemal initation and teeping up a discharge of out the bedy.

recommended by some physicians; and may be useful in some cases.



Imust conclude this part of the subject and topical bleeding over all other of hy droth ware, And, were this remedy early and more generally adopted, it would prove the most tractable of any of the forms of dropsies. After we have reduced the inflam. mating symptoms, or abated the vasoul. -las action in a considerable degree, we are to resort to Directicathe Gest of this class of remedies are thechilla Maritima, Degitalis, and Netrate of Potash. The first of these is given in combination with Calomelow Blue Jell; and the latter combined with the Santrate of Potash and antimony, as in the Sitrous Towders.



It is best always to use the esterous sow ders after Blue disig, to reduce any inflammatory action that may remain, and thus prepare the system for the Squill and Calonnel: two grains of the Produced Squill and half a grains of Caloniel, made into a pill on powder; may be given three times a day, until the mouth becomes slightly touched; then the calomel must be omitted and the Squill continued. In a short time after the occurrence of a slight salivation, we shall find the symptoms yield and the condition of the patient much We shall now find the Squill to

We that I now find the squill to went its influence on the university of your causing a fire discharge of universalish



is followed by an above ment or relief of every distrebing symptims, with a oure of the disease.

If we should be displanted in the spill and calonel, after a fair trial, we may then second to other directions as the Digitalis and Colchicum

The birst of these articles is only adapted to those cases accompanied with a cold their, weath pulse, and pale counteres once, chief by unit well adopted to cases of the atomic form, and it is cases of the atomic form, and it is well suited to persons of delicate

Digitalis may be given alone, or combined with Squill, calmed or Advate of Brash: the dose, alone, or in am bin at one, is half a gramy which may be gradually increased to two



grains three times a day; it is best to give it in pill or pow der.

its effects on the patient, we must use it not produce decided effects in three on four days, it should be discontinued for a few days, and if no evidence is afforded of its effects on the systemize may then begin its administration quantity first given and gradually augmenting the days

Fintumes we shart find Engitalis to act little a charm, and copined. Such as get write with an amelioration of all the angent symptoms result

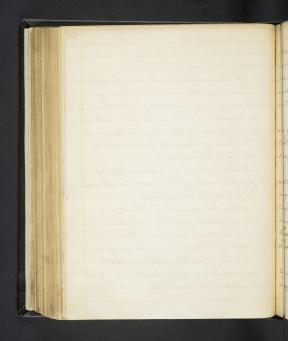


from its judicious and well limed administration.

If the circulation be greatly disturbed the river one of servinal time time of colchicum may be used, either almos or in combination with other articles, as the Elaterium, Privite of sites, and the Torothere of Squidly, agreeably to Describer's famula.

If the patient be a drunkand the Janko will often prove hereficial.

The powers of this class of remedies may often be aided by those of a milder nature gas an infusion of Buriper Berries, to which the Super Santrate of Itash may be added. The Spirits of nitive, alone, or added to an infusion of the Scaling, or of the Jahon, or of the year work of the Dandelin and Bassey.



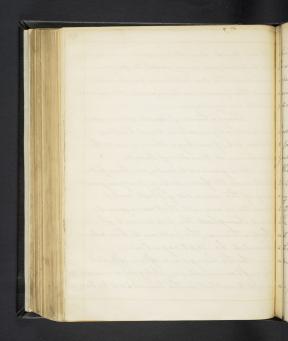
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If we find direction of to releve the patienty we may most to purpations, prided the contitution be sound and the pulse active, and the disease in the early stage.

Sung a tives of a draster nature we generally user to d to; as Clatin, boton bil, gam boge. Sonn a, and the compound proder of Jalap.

as a general rule, no bene fit will result from active purging in any of the diseases of thest mild lacatives are all that we require di and throughout the breatment of hydrethorax, the patients bowels thould be kept regular.

At the lungs are often affected by inflammation, phlegm or mucus is apt to collect in the bronchial tubes,



which we down the patient uncomfortable To meet his under time, Emotics and Expectoraris are to be administered; but it will solden be required to wound a patient in this disease.

Among the class of Expectorants, those populating divinte powers should be preferred, as the Squill, Tilizalu Taugof garles, and Greacuan has

gutter, and Specacuanhas.

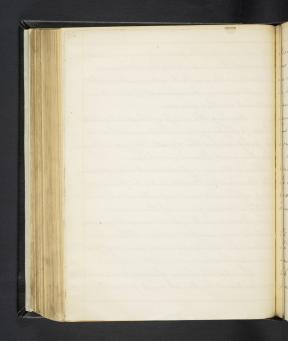
Moor a tonic empectorant is indicated,
the Cascarella Barth will be found

very efficient, and is particularly suited
to the alonic form of the disease.

The Specacuanha, in nauscating dosay
will be very exclut where there is an

asthmatic tendency and want of the

Thould we have failed to relieve our patient by local and general



blood letting, purging, dieneties, mercury,

low deck, and repeated blistering, we may then try the effects of helping

the patient under the influence of

nanseating doses of emetics, you a few days: by Mis plan of treatment the flied

has been gradually removed and a cure thus effected.

It is important, the aighout the treatment of hydre thoraxe, to keep the love or ordinamities neally bandaged by a roller of muslin, particularly if



during the treatment and his convales In the early part of the after treatment of the disease, the dich should be strictly antiphlagistic, and where much febrile action and other inflammatory symptoms are present, a total abotion nence from every thing though be enjained for a few day of but if this cannot be acquiesced in, Basley or June ara bie water may be allowed. By fasting the powers of the aleson bents are greatly increased, and by this plan alone cures have been effected. But if the patient is advanced ise years and propersed of a constitution



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shattered by intemperance or weathered by previous disease, a navishing diet will be demanded, Eggs, Oysters, de llies, and plain both's may be allowed; with the free use of flui ds, as Juniper Berry tea, Gearse of Tarter whey, and if the patient-be a drunk and, giri and water may be taken, but the best drin IR is pure waters The convalescent-patient-shouldbe very guarded in his habits of living, as slight deriations from temperance and mederation, may renew all his sufferings: let him partake of plain and simple ford, and by all means avoid Stimuli of every kinds

-Thiris-

